

DELEGATE MOSER: Absolutely not. It is to have a limited application. It is to apply, in the beginning when lines are drawn and when powers are given to or withdrawn from, only one thing, a popularly elected representative regional government.

THE CHAIRMAN: If Delegate Moser will return to his seat on the floor, we will be ready for consideration of amendments.

While he is doing that, let me call to your attention to the fact that in proceeding from now on we will be proceeding under Debate Schedule No. 3. There will be no speech exceeding three minutes, except those permitted under the debate schedule. The three minute limitation does not apply to answering of questions by the Committee Chairman and presentation of any amendments, other than those encompassed specifically within the debate schedule. It is limited to ten minutes, including presentation time and time yielded in answering questions; that is, a ten-minute limitation on the sponsor of the amendment.

The first section for consideration is section 7.01. Are there any amendments to section 7.01?

*(There was no response.)*

The next section is 7.02. Are there any amendments to section 7.02?

Delegate Moser.

DELEGATE MOSER: Mr. Chairman, my understanding was 7.02 and 7.10 were going to be considered together.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct. Under the Debate Schedule, we will take up 7.02 first. Considering them together simply means we can consider amendments to 7.02, then 7.10, and go back to 7.02 and consider them as one package.

Delegate Cardin, do you have an amendment?

DELEGATE CARDIN: Yes, I do. In that case I would like to call up Amendment C.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me see first if there is any amendment to section 7.02.

Is there any amendment to section 7.02?

*(There was no response.)*

If not, we will consider amendments to section 7.10. This will be amendment 1. The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 1 to Committee Recommendation LC-1, by Delegate Cardin: On page 4 in line 42 of section 7.10, Multi-County Governments, strike out the word "may" and insert in lieu thereof the word "shall."

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the amendment seconded?

*(Whereupon, the amendment was seconded.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is moved and seconded. The Chair recognizes Delegate Cardin to speak to the amendment.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates:

I hope I do not appear to have sunk into a rut in this particular provision for referendum, but the subject is very close to me, and I would like to explain to you why I feel that the word "shall" should be inserted instead of "may."

First, there are many questions that come to mind as I look at the sentence beginning in line 42, "The General Assembly may provide referenda for any law establishing a popularly elected, representative regional government, or affecting its powers."

As I read it, this is subject to interpretation by those more enlightened in this area than I. This refers to that referendum which would be placed on the ballot by the General Assembly. I would like to make certain in this particular section that we provide for referendum by petition of the people.

Would it be possible if the General Assembly chose not to provide referenda for them to deny the people the right to petition this to referendum? That is the first question that comes to my mind.

The second is, would this referendum, if it becomes petitionable, be local referendum on statewide public general law, in which case we have two other questions.

We are not discussing public local law under this, but public general law, yet this would not necessarily be a public general law since it may establish a very restrictive, narrow multi-county governmental unit.

Another question is, where in this area do we provide for the possibility of referendum by the people and a non-suspendable law by the General Assembly? If the